

The FTC would work with the attorneys general of various affected States to take appropriate action.

I am aware that inquiries as these have been conducted in the past, particularly around this time of year. Price surges around the time of the Labor Day holiday are common. As the prices fall, interest in determining why they reached record level diminishes. I hope this can be different. Even if prices begin to fall, which it appears they may, we still need to know what happened and why it happened.

Oil, as we all know, is the most widely used source of energy in the world. Facts indicate that world production of oil will start to decline. However, demand will not. At what point the production of oil will fall below demand cannot be accurately determined, but I believe that recent events that have disrupted normal supply and demand behavior is an illustration of what consumers can expect once that day arrives.

This is why, after years of delay, it was so important that we were able to pass an energy bill, allowing for the development of more energy sources. I am hopeful that these energy sources, particularly renewable fuels made from farm commodities, will be developed quickly enough to prevent price surges at times the oil supply or refinery capacity is disrupted.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, Nebraska has the distinct honor of being the only State west of Arkansas to see prices jump more than 50 cents per gallon since August 30. Why Nebraska? Let's find out.

In many cases, we saw pump price increases of 20, 30, 40 cents and even higher in a single day. Why such a dramatic increase? Let's find out.

We know there exists a very healthy competition between gasoline retailers, yet the price range for the same grade of gasoline yesterday was \$3.19 in Lincoln, Nebraska and \$2.99 in nearby Fremont. Why the difference? Let's find out.

What role do speculators play in establishing price? Let's find out.

These questions, and others, are important. Every part of our Nation's economy is impacted by these increases.

For example, the extraordinary prices of gasoline, diesel fuel, natural gas and petroleum derived input products such as fertilizer, chemicals and propane add another economic burden, particularly in rural areas and for farmers and ranchers who count on a ready and accessible energy supply for the production and harvest of their crops and livestock.

We need stable and reasonable gasoline, diesel, and natural gas prices to operate farm machinery, dry grain, and transport commodities to market, especially during the coming harvest season. The extreme volatility of world crude oil and petroleum product prices, according to USDA, has already impacted net farm income by over \$2 billion.

When we take a hard look at the facts, we will better understand the forces affecting prices at the pump. We'll understand why in Nebraska we pay prices that range from \$2.89 to \$3.61 and higher. We'll understand reports of \$6.00 gasoline in Atlanta and even higher prices at home and abroad. This legislation is nothing but beneficial for American gasoline consumers.

Now, I ask my colleagues to join me in promoting legislation that will provide valuable information on our Nation and the world's transportation fuels.

NATIONAL ASSISTED LIVING WEEK

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I want to draw attention to the 11th annual National Assisted Living Week, which begins on September 11 and continues through September 17. Created in 1995 by the National Center for Assisted Living, and being celebrated for the second time in conjunction with the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and Assisted Living Federation of America, National Assisted Living Week emphasizes the importance of assisted living services to the more than 1 million seniors and persons with disabilities who rely on them every day.

The theme for this week is "A Fair to Remember." The theme encourages assisted living facilities to create their own "Fair" environment for the residents, families, staff, volunteers and local community and to celebrate their time together and share the fun with family and friends.

Assisted living continues to grow in importance as our society's demographics change and as we live longer. Seniors and their families want a homelike setting and are seeking alternatives to nursing homes. Because assisted living has been able to develop to meet community needs, it can be very different in different States. However, the goal is the same: to provide quality care for those who need some help in caring for themselves but are not in need of the care provided by a nursing home.

My home State of Oregon pioneered the concept of assisted living, and I am proud of my State's ability to continue to evolve the concept so that it meets the changing needs of seniors. All of us want to be in a safe environment and as independent as possible for as long as possible. Assisted living provides care while maintaining the dignity of the individuals they serve. Our Nation must continue to support those long-term care options that allow consumers the care setting that is appropriate for their needs.

IN HONOR OF LIEUTENANT COMMANDER LUKE CLYBURN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to an exceptional educator and steward of the

Great Lakes, LCDR Luke Clyburn. Commander Clyburn is captain of the ship "Pride of Michigan" and president of the Noble Odyssey Foundation. He is an innovative, committed leader who has worked for more than 32 years to educate young people about the importance of the Great Lakes and other fresh water lakes through the Naval Sea Cadets training program. We are grateful for his long and distinguished service.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps was incorporated by an act of Congress in 1962, and a Great Lakes Division was added in 1973. The mission of the Corps is to "encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in sea-going skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues." For more than 32 years, Commander Clyburn has accepted that charge.

Under Commander Clyburn's able leadership, the Sea Cadet program acquired a retired naval vessel, the "Noble Odyssey," in 1977. On it, Sea Cadets from Michigan learned to man a ship from bow to stern, and they took part in invigorating scientific missions. With the cadets as crew, Commander Clyburn put together a series of Great Lakes research projects with professional scientists.

In 1989, it was my honor to help Commander Clyburn replace the "Noble Odyssey" with a larger ship, another retired naval vessel, the "Pride of Michigan." On the "Pride of Michigan," Luke has continued the same great work with the same great results. The scientific work has included significant research on invasive zebra mussels, which are harming the Great Lakes, and an investigation of an ancient drowned forest 2 miles off of Lexington, MI. These projects have been filmed and produced into documentaries, including the educational videos "Fresh Water Invaders," "Angels of the Sea," "Emperor," "The Underwater Forest," and "The Norwood Project."

In 2002, the Noble Odyssey Foundation was established as a nonprofit organization to raise money for the Sea Cadet Corps. With Luke as its president, the foundation has ensured the future of the Naval Sea Cadet Program, Great Lakes Division.

Commander Clyburn has dedicated himself to teaching young people about the importance of fresh water and how to protect these resources for future generations. He has been an inspiration and a gift to so many youth, and, along the way, he has made great contributions to scientific discovery. I know that my colleagues join me in thanking and praising Commander Clyburn for his distinguished service to our country.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING JON KRAHULIK

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the